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9 July 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Remote Monitoring Equipment

REFERENCE : Memo of 25 January 1971, same subject

1. The Collins remote monitoring equipment--two receivers, a tape recorder, and a computer placed in the [REDACTED] and connected with the former bureau's antennas and linked by a voice circuit to a teletype control unit and a remote control head--was put into operation on 4 February.

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2. After engineering tests were completed, [REDACTED] made intensive use of the equipment over a two-week period to check its cruising potential. He found the equipment to be practical and usable but suggested some modifications. His observations and recommendations are appended as annex B.

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3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All three found the equipment to be good. Their evaluation of the equipment is attached as annex C.

4. During the period the equipment was tested there were 13 outages, one of 5 days duration. A complete list of the outages giving duration and cause is appended as annex D.

5. On the basis of the outages cited, I must conclude that this equipment should not yet be relied on without manning at the receiver site to be able to record programs which might otherwise be missed through equipment failure. It is good equipment, however, and should be given a further actual working trial in [REDACTED] with a minimal number of receivers and the teletype control unit but not the remote control heads. A further conclusion which must be reached, in my opinion, is that this equipment is only as good as the transmission channel and would thus require us to utilize our own VHF capability in conjunction with any such remote operation.

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6. I recommend that we purchase as many of these Collins receivers as we can for general use, without regard to remote operations because they are excellent receivers which are almost maintenance free and would

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save us many hours of preventive maintenance time and would also give us the equipment on hand if ever we do have to go to a remote operation. This equipment may be the only answer to coverage of denied areas in the not too distant future when communications costs via satellite drop to within realistic limits.

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Attachments